**Leeds Children’s Social Work Service**

**Brief Enquiry / Indicative Assessment in relation to Age**

**This proforma should be completed where assessors are determining whether a decision can be made about a person’s age based on their presentation within a brief enquiry or whether a full age assessment is required. The principle that the appearance and demeanour of a person may justify a provisional view that they are a child or an adult is supported by the judgment in the *Merton* case.**

**THEREFORE THIS SHOULD ONLY BE COMPLETED WHERE THERE IS DOUBT PRESENT.**

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| **Date:** |  |
| **Name as stated by person presenting:** |  |
| **Nationality:** |  |
| **Language Spoken (include second language if alternative is used for interpretation):**  |  |
| **Age and DOB stated by person presenting:** |  |
| **Any other names or DOB used, including those given by the police or Home Office:** |  |
| **Referrer details / location:** |  |
| **Home Office reference number if available:** |  |
| **Date of entry into the UK:** |  |
| **Name of Social Workers carrying out brief enquiry:** |  |

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| **Account of how age is known:** |
| How old are you? What is your date of birth? *Ensure the interpreter provides this as stated by the individual presenting to you; for example: 4th day of the 8th month [year]* |  |
| Note the calendar used by person e.g. Afghan/Persian or Gregorian |  |
| How do you know your date of birth?  |  |
| If someone told you your age, how old were you at the time they told you and when did this take place? |  |
| Do/did you have any ID documents?Where are these documents now? |  |

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| **Overview of Journey to the UK:** |
| How long has it taken you to get to the UK?*(Gather brief description)* |  |
| Who arranged your journey? |  |
| Have you been finger printed in any other country prior to entering the UK?  |  |
| Have you to your knowledge been asked to undergo an age assessment before either in the UK or another country? |  |

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| **Health:** |
| Are there any immediate health or wellbeing needs? |  |
| Has a Covid19 test took place, and if so when and what were the results? |  |
| Has the person presenting quarantined for 10 days since their arrival in the UK?  |  |

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| **PHYSICAL APPEARANCE and PRESENTATION observations** :* *An initial hypothesis of age range is formed based on several relevant factors including but not limited to: height, facial features (facial hair, skin lines/folds, etc.), voice tone, and general impression. It is important to consider racial differences here e.g. It is normal in some cultures for boys to have facial hair at an early age and for girls to develop at different ages.*
* *Life experiences and trauma may impact on the ageing process, bear this in mind.*
* *Demeanour, it is essential to take account of how the person presents, style, attitude and authority and relate this to the culture of the country of origin and events preceding the interview, journey experiences etc.*
* *It is useful to establish the length of time that the person has taken to arrive in the UK from the time they left their country of origin and include this into the age calculation.*
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| **Additional Factors:** |
| Level of independent living skills; cooking, budgeting, confidence to navigate around the city, support network etc. *(note any dietary requirements and feelings towards animals in placement if it is likely that they will be accommodated during the assessment period)* |  |
| Other professionals opinions on age (e.g. police, police doctor, immigration official or welfare worker): |  |
| Are there any indicators that trafficking may have taken place, if so describe?  |  |
| Has the person presented consented to have their photograph taken, did this take place? |  |

**Outcome**

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| Do you consider this person to be under the age of 18? | No / Yes / Not Sure *(If not sure progress to age assessment)* |
| If considered to be obviously over 25, confirm Date of Birth to be used in the UK: |  |

*Note: If doubt is present in regards to being under or over 18 then a full age assessment is required.*

*If the person presenting is accepted as a minor but the age they claim is disputed e.g. claims to be 13 but evidence suggests 16+, then a full age assessment is required to determine age and date of birth more accurately to ensure correct provision of services.*

*If the person presenting is deemed to be an adult, ensure the ‘Over 25 letter’ has been issued and explained fully to the presenting adult and that they sign to acknowledge this. This should be accompanied by the Information Sharing Proforma.*

*Provide a copy to Police/Immigration as necessary and retain copy for* ***Leeds CSWS*** *records.*

*Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE:

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| **About the Document** |  |
| Title | ‘Brief Enquiry / Indicative Assessment in relation to Age’ |
| Purpose | The purpose of this document is for assessors to complete where they are determining whether a decision can be made about a person’s age based on their presentation within a brief enquiry or whether a full age assessment is required. |
| Replaces |  N/A |
| Author and Role |  |
| Owner and Role |  |
| Approved by  | Jackie Goodwin (Service Delivery Manager, Child Looked After Service) |
| Date approved |  17/2/2023 |
| Frequency of Review | Annual |